

The Tucson Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Project

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN:

CITY OF TUCSON, WARD 5

ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE GREATER SOUTHERN ARIZONA AREA CHAPTER, 9TH and 10TH CAVALRY ASSOCIATION

9TH MEMORIAL UNITED STATES CAVALRY, INC

10TH CAVALRY TROOP B FOUNDATION

OMEGA PSI PHI FRATENITY

We Can, We Will, We Are So Others Can Learn

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MEMORIAL PROJECT OVERVIEW

Over the past seven years, various Buffalo Soldier organizations have been working with Tucson City Council Members to honor the contributions of some of America's greatest heroes, the Buffalo Soldiers. Meetings and discussions have led to the dedicating and reserving a plot of land at the Quincie Douglas center that will be the future site of a Buffalo Soldiers Memorial.

The neighborhood surrounding the center is one of the oldest historically black neighborhoods in Tucson. Unfortunately, most Tucsonans and residents of this community do not know the rich history of the neighborhood and the significant contributions that Black Americans have made to Tucson, Arizona, and our nation. There are currently no monuments in Tucson that recognize or honor the contributions of Black Americans in the defense of the nation. We want to change this!

The members of Greater Southern Arizona Area Chapter, 9th and 10th Calvary and members of the Omega Phi Psi fraternity are excited to partner with Tucson Ward 5 City Council Member Richard Fimbres to build a memorial to the Buffalo Soldiers.

The Need

At this present time there are no monuments or museums in the Tucson representative of contributions Black Americans made in settling Southern Arizona and the West.

The Purpose

To preserve and recognize the important contributions of the Buffalo Soldiers who were stationed in Arizona.

Goals

- Raise awareness of the contributions that the Buffalo Soldiers made in settling the Southwest, Arizona and their connection to Tucson, AZ.
- To recognize the contributions of the Buffalo Soldiers in protecting the nation in a time of war.
- Establish a suitable memorial to honor the Buffalo Soldiers, and showcase their exploits in the Southwest and war campaigns.

Mission Statement

To "educate" the Tucson community about rich history of the Buffalo Soldiers and their positive impact on defending the nation and settling Southern Arizona and other Western states.

THEIR STORIES - OUR HISTORY

Buffalo Soldiers Background – Six Regimental Units Activated

In 1866 Congress authorized, for the first time, Black Americans to serve in the peacetime army of the United States. Two cavalry and four infantry regiments were created and designated the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry regiments and the 38th, 39th, 40th, and 41st U.S. Infantry regiments were activated on July 28, 1866. The four infantry regiments later became the 24th and 25th Infantry regiments. The all-Black American regiments, commanded mostly by white officers, were composed of Civil War veterans, former slaves, and freemen.

After serving in the majority of conflicts against bandits, renegades, and hostile Native Americans throughout the western United States, several units moved to Arizona to Ft. Bowie and Ft. Huachuca in the 1880's. As protectors of the border through 1918 and the New Mexico Territory including Arizona, Buffalo Soldiers created the atmosphere to establish Arizona and New Mexico as states in 1912.

Over a period of eighty two years the Buffalo Soldiers served as the primary arm of the government providing services that now are provided by a myriad of governmental agencies. Buffalo Soldiers were postman, park rangers, police officers and armed forces all rolled into one. Corporal Isaiah Mays and Sergeant Benjamin Brown were both awarded the Medal of Honor for their protection and defense of the Wham Paymaster stage in February 1890 near Fort Grant, Arizona. They were among twenty three Buffalo Soldiers to receive America's highest honor.

Also in 1890, Sergeant Major William McBryar was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1890 for his part in the capture of a group of Apaches who had retreated to a cave after a five-day, 200-mile pursuit. Under fire, McBryar maneuvered to a position where he could ricochet his bullets into the cave, forcing surrender. His was the first Medal of Honor awarded to a 10th Cavalry Soldier.

In the spring 1916 the Buffalo Soldiers and Major Charles Young (one of only six black officers in the Army at the time) were called upon to join General "Black Jack "Pershing in his pursuit of Pancho Villa after his attach on Columbus, New Mexico. And in 1918 Buffalo Soldiers were defending ranchers from incursions by the Yaquis in the last battle of the Indian wars in the continental United States. The Buffalo Soldier units were disbanded in 1948 when President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981 integrating the military services and mandating equal treatment of all uniformed soldiers in the armed services. The mayor's proclamation is one step in paying the debt of gratitude owed these heroic men.

The "Buffalo Soldiers" Nickname – Some Disagree

According to the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, the name originated with the Cheyenne warriors in the winter of 1867. The actual Cheyenne translation was "Wild Buffalo." However, writer Walter Hill documented the assertions of Colonel Benjamin Grierson, who founded the 10th Cavalry regiment, who recalled an 1871 campaign against the Comanche tribe. Hill attributed the origin of the name to the Comanche based on Colonel Grierson's assertions. Some sources contend that the nickname was given out of respect for the fierce fighting ability of the 10th cavalry. Other

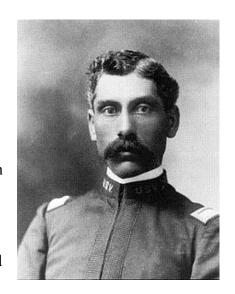
sources say that Native Americans called the black cavalry troops "Buffalo Soldiers" because of their dark curly hair, which resembled a buffalo's coat. Still other sources point to a combination of both legends. The term Buffalo Soldiers became a generic term for all African-American soldiers. It is now used for U.S. Army units that trace their direct lineage back to the 9th and 10th Cavalry, units whose service earned them an honored place in U.S. history.

Buffalo Soldier Medal of Honor Recipients

The Medal of Honor, the highest award that can be given to a member of the U.S. military, is presented by the president. It is awarded to an individual who, while serving his country, "distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty." The Medal of Honor was authorized in 1862. It was awarded to 417 men who served in the frontier Indian Campaigns between 1865 and 1899. Eighteen were awarded to Black American soldiers: 8 were presented to members of the 9th Cavalry, 4 to members of the 10th Cavalry, and 6 to members of the 24th Infantry (Schubert 1997). Five members of the 10th Cavalry received the award during the Spanish American War.

Sergeant Major William McBryar

Sergeant Major William McBryar (February 14, 1861 – March 8, 1941) was a Buffalo Soldier in the United States Army and a recipient of America's highest military decoration—the Medal of Honor-- for his actions during the Cherry Creek Campaign in Arizona Territory. McBryar joined the Army from New York City and by March 7, 1890 was serving as a sergeant in Company K of the 10th Cavalry Regiment. On that day, he participated in an engagement in Arizona where he "distinguished himself for coolness, bravery and marksmanship while his troop was in pursuit of hostile Apache Indians." For his actions, Sergeant McBryar was awarded the Medal of Honor two months later, on May 15, 1890. McBryar later became a commissioned officer and left the Army as a First Lieutenant. He died at age 80 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



Sergeant Benjamin Brown and Corporal Isaiah Mays received the Medal of Honor for their bravery in one of the mysterious incidents in military history, the Wham Robbery.

The Wham Robbery

For more than a century, some \$28,000.00 in gold and silver coins has been missing after the little known Wham Paymaster Robbery occurred near Pima, AZ. Though eight suspects were caught and tried for the crime, they walked away free men. The tale of the robbery and the mystery that surrounds remains unsolved today.

In the early morning hours of May 11, 1889, U.S. Army Paymaster, Major Joseph Washington Wham was preparing for a trek from Fort Grant to Fort Thomas to pay the soldiers' salaries. About 15 miles west of Pima in the Gila River Valley, just after midday, the caravan came to a stop as a

large boulder was blocking the road. When the wagons were unable to get around it, the soldiers lay down their weapons in order to dislodge the large rock. However, before they made any progress, a cry came from a ledge some 60 feet above on the adjacent hill, "Look out, you black sons of bitches!" and bullets began to hail down upon the soldiers. Three of the 12 mules pulling the wagons were killed and the other animals panicked, rearing and pulling both vehicles off the road.



In the meantime, the soldiers scrambled for the guns and took cover. As the bullets continued to reign down

upon them from three heavily fortified sides, Sergeant Benjamin Brown was shot, but continued to return fire with his revolver. In the meantime, Private James Young ran through heavy gunfire and carried Brown more than 100 yards to safety. Corporal Isaiah Mays then took command, ordering the entourage to retreat to a creek bed about 300 yards away, despite Major Wham's protests. The battle continued to rage on for about a half an hour as the soldiers valiantly tried to protect the payload.

Two of the Buffalo Soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor for their part in the gun battle with the bandits. Although shot in the abdomen, Sergeant Benjamin Brown continued the fight until he was wounded in both arms. Corporal Isaiah Mays also received the Medal of Honor, as near the end of the gun battle, though shot in the legs, he "walked and crawled two miles to Cottonwood Ranch and gave the alarm." Brown and Mays were the only black infantrymen to receive the Medal of Honor for bravery in the frontier Indian Wars.

Other Buffalo Soldiers cited for bravery in the incident received the Certificate of Merit. These included Hamilton Lewis, Squire Williams, George Arrington, James Wheeler, Benjamin Burge, Thomas Hams, James Young, and Julius Harrison of the 10th Cavalry and 24th Infantry.

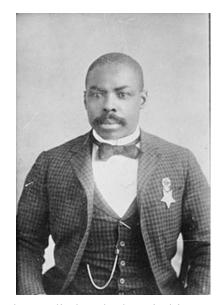
Sergeant Benjamin Brown

Sergeant Benjamin Brown (Born 1859 - September 5, 1910) was a recipient of America's highest military decoration— for his actions during the "Wham Robbery," 1889. The crack of gunfire split the midday quiet in a remote corner of southeastern Arizona, not far from the tiny Mormon settlement of Pima. From behind fortifications overlooking the Fort Grant - Fort Thomas road, at a place known locally as "Bloody Run," a band of highwaymen ambushed army paymaster Major Joseph Washington Wham and his buffalo soldier escort. Following a

hard-fought battle, the bandits made off with more than \$28,000. The money was never recovered. Eight of the twelve-man escort were wounded in the spirited defense of the army payroll, Sergeant Benjamin Brown refusing to give up his defense though shot in the abdomen and then wounded in both arms. Brown died in 1910 and was buried at the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Corporal Isaiah Mays

Corporal Isaiah Mays (February 16, 1858 – May 2, 1925) was a Buffalo Soldier in the United States Army and a recipient of America's highest military decoration—the Medal of Honor—for his actions during the Wham Paymaster Robbery in Arizona Territory. Mays was born into slavery in Virginia. He joined the Army from Columbus Barracks, Ohio, and by May 11, 1889 was serving as a corporal in Company B of the 24th Infantry Regiment. On that day, he was among the troops attacked during the Wham Paymaster Robbery. The next year, on February 19, 1890, Mays was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the engagement. After leaving the army in 1893, Mays worked as a laborer in Arizona and New



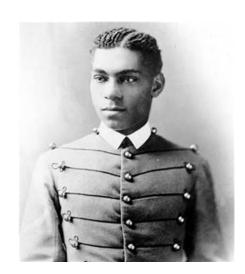
Mexico. He applied for a federal pension in 1922, but was denied. He died at the hospital in 1925, at age sixty-seven, and was buried in the adjoining cemetery. His grave was marked with only a small stone block, etched with a number. In 2001, the marker was replaced with an official United States Department of Army headstone.

Black American Officers

Three Black Americans graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point during the 19th century. The men, Henry O. Flipper, John H. Alexander, and Charles Young, were assigned to Black American units.

Second Lieutenant Henry O. Flipper

Henry Ossian Flipper was born on March 21, 1856, in Thomasville, Georgia. In July 1877 he became the first Black American to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He was assigned to the 10th Cavalry in July 1877and was first stationed at Fort Sill. One of his successes at Fort Sill, as the post's engineer, was the construction of a system to drain stagnant ponds harboring mosquitoes (and potentially causing malaria). In 1880, Flipper was assigned to Fort Davis, Texas, with the duties of Acting Assistant Quartermaster and Acting Commissary of Subsistence. In 1881, Flipper found that commissary funds were missing, and he hid the loss until he could discover the reason behind it. His actions resulted in a courtmartial. In December of 1881, he was tried at Fort Davis and found guilty of "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman"



and was dismissed from the army. However, President Bill Clinton posthumously granted Flipper an honorable discharge in 1999, and on the 100th anniversary of his graduation, West Point unveiled a bust to honor the former graduate.

Colonel Charles Young

Charles Young was born March 12, 1864 in Mayslick, Kentucky. After graduating from high school at the age of 16, he taught at a black high school in Ripley, Ohio. In 1884, he entered the United States Military Academy at West Point and graduated in 1889. In 1903, he was appointed superintendent of Sequoia and General Grant national parks, becoming the first black superintendent of a national park. During the 1916 Punitive Expedition into Mexico, Young commanded a squadron of the 10th Calvary and due to his exceptional leadership was promoted to lieutenant colonel. Young was medically retired from the military in 1917 and spent most of 1917 and 1918 as a professor at Wilberforce University. In late 1918, he was reinstated into the army and promoted to colonel and assigned as a military attaché to Liberia where he died.



The Buffalo Soldier Legacy

Throughout the period of the Indian Wars, about 20% of the U.S. Cavalry troopers and 8% of the infantry soldiers were Black American. The Buffalo Soldiers rose above the challenges of harsh living conditions, difficult duty, and racial prejudice to gain a reputation of dedication and bravery. Thirteen Medals of Honor were awarded to Buffalo Soldiers during the Indian Wars, and five were awarded during the Spanish-American War. Stationed on the U.S. frontier from the 1860s to the 1890s, Buffalo Soldiers played a major role in the settlement and development of the American West. Following the first Buffalo Soldiers, Black American regiments later served in the Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, Mexican Punitive Expedition, World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. In the 1950s, Black American regiments were disbanded when all military services were integrated. At that time, for the first time, black and white soldiers served together in the same regiments.

National Park Service Units

Buffalo Soldiers were known to have played a significant historical role in at least six parks in the American Southwest: Fort Davis National Historic Site (FODA) and Guadalupe Mountains National Park (GUMO) in Texas; Fort Larned N.H.S. (FOLS) in Kansas; and Fort Bowie N.H.S. (FOBO) and Chiricahua National Monument (CHIR) in Arizona. Buffalo Soldiers were also stationed at Fort Huachuca (still an active military installation) near Coronado National Memorial (CORO) in Arizona. Throughout these sites, the soldiers protected traffic on the San Antonio-El Paso Road, helped build Fort Davis into one of the largest posts in Texas, participated in campaigns

The Tucson Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Project

against Native Americans, protected settlers and guarded stage stations, constructed roads and telegraph lines, and explored and mapped previously unmapped regions. Colonel Charles Young was the first African-American to head the National Park System.

MEMORIAL PROJECT COALITION

Current Coalition Members

- City of Tucson, Ward 5 Councilman Fimbres
- · Arizona Historical Society Mr. Bill Ponder
- Omega Psi Phi
 - o The Honorable Judge Ronald Wilson Coalition Chairman
 - o Mr. Frederick Alexander
- Greater Southern Arizona Area Chapter (GSAAC) 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association. Buffalo Soldier Memorial/Museum Committee Vice Chairs:
 - Trooper Floyd Gray
 - Trooper Jon Covington
- 9th Memorial United States Cavalry, Inc. Regimental Sergeant Major Bill McCurtis
- 10th Cavalry Troop B Foundation Regimental Sergeant Major Aaron Plumb
- Dr. Michael Engs (Technical Advisor)

Other Partnership Possibilities

- Dunbar Coalition, Inc.
- University of Arizona (History Dept.)
- TUSD (Black Studies Dept.)
- Pima County
- Other local Buffalo Soldier Organizations
- Other local civil and private organizations

Letters of Support

The following organizations have submitted letters of support for the memorial project:

- Arizona Historical Society
- GSAAC Tucson
- Omega Psi Phi
- 9th Memorial United States Calvary
- 10th Calvary Troop B Foundation

MEMORIAL PROJECT DESIGN

Memorial Design

The memorial will consist of different features recognizing local Buffalo Soldiers associated with the Tucson area and the state of Arizona. These features will include:

- Historical markers for the Buffalo Soldiers and Colonel Charles Young
- Pedestals honoring Medal of Honor recipients
- Four Regiment Gazebos
- · Four mini flag poles featuring the regimental flags
- · Benches, Garden, Water fountain etc.

Memorial features can be named after prominent Buffalo Soldiers including Henry O. Flipper and John H. Alexander, the first and second black cadets who graduated from West Point. Colonel Charles Young, the third black cadet to graduate from West Point will also be properly recognized.

The memorial will also consist of different features recognizing local Buffalo Soldiers associated with the Tucson area and the state of Arizona, such as First Lieutenant William McBryar, Sergeant Benjamin Brown and Corporal Isaiah Mayes (See the "Their Stories - Our History" Section)

Other Memorial Features

Symbols - The memorial will tell a story through architecture, sculpture, landscaping and words to educate and inspire visitors about the legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers. Here are a few symbol examples:

Service - A description key within the memorial will note the regiments and divisions of the negro troops.

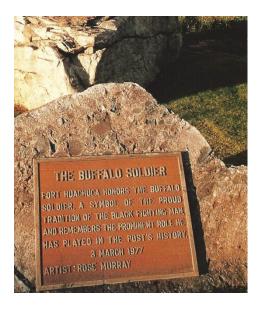
Sacrifice - This element will ensure that the Buffalo Soldiers are recognized for the hardships they had to endure and overcome.

Accomplishments - This element will ensure that the Buffalo Soldiers are recognized and validated for their accomplishments and contributions to America.

Theaters of War - A description key within the memorial will note the wars and events that the Buffalo Soldiers participated in.

Possible Feature Examples:

Buffalo Soldier Historic Marker



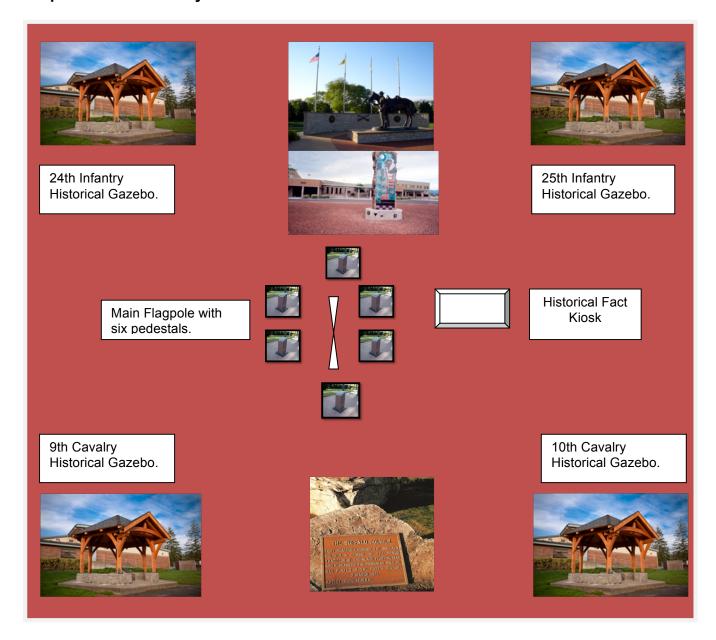
Regiment Gazebos



Pedestals



Proposed Memorial Layout



Notes:

- 1. Four gazebos for the 9th and 10th Cavalries and the 24th and 25th Infantries featuring:
 - A unit pedestal with the unit's coat of arms and unit insignia.
 - Site Marker giving the unit's history
- 2. One main flagpole for the US flag (already there) and four smaller flagpoles for regimental flags.
- 3. One obelisk (already there) featuring "Medal of Honor" and Congressional Medal of Honor" recipients.
- 4. Brick walls encircles the entire memorial area. Wall height would be 5ft on the sides and 2ft in the front.
- 5. Six pedestals honoring the significant Buffalo Soldiers and others.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising Ideas

As stated earlier, part of the objective of this project is to educate and raise awareness of the contributions Buffalo Soldiers made in developing Southern Arizona, the Southwest, and the western United States.

One way to raise the needed funding is to have local companies, businesses, and/or organizations to financially sponsor specific memorial features (i.e. the regiment gazebos, flagpoles, pedestals etc.). Also, solicit individual donors for the bricks and pavers.

Fundraising efforts will naturally focus on the Tucson community at large, however, the coalition will also utilize the web to reach other possible donors who share our passion for the Buffalo Soldier story and have financial means who are located outside the Tucson area (i.e. statewide, nationwide and worldwide).

Within the Tucson area, here are some fundraising ideas:

- Golf Tournament
- Movie Screening
- Benefit Concert
- DVD Sales
- Letter Solicitation

Other Funding Sources

Tradition and non-tradition channels, as well as personal and professional networks will be used for publicity to secure funding and grow awareness for the project. Other funding sources may include public bond monies, government and corporate, and private donations.

PROJECT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

At this time the projected cost of the project has not been determined. However, several items of expense associated with project have been identified. The following tentative breakdown is provided:

Budget (Overall)

Phase I (Planning and Prep.)	TBD
Phase II (Memorial Design)	TBD
Phase III (Project Construction)	TBD
Total Cost	TBD

Budget - Phase I (Planning and Memorial Preparation)

Artist Conception of the Memorial Layout	
Memorial Literature	
Memorial Web Site	

Budget - Phase II (Memorial Design Features Cost)

Pedestals	
Plaques	
Regiment Flags	
Benches	
Gazebos (Four)	
Site Markers	
Bricks and Pavers	
Additional Elements	
Total Cost	

Budget - Phase III (Project Construction) - To Be Determined

TIMELINE/MILESTONES

Letters of Support	Four Groups have sent letters
Presentation to Councilman Fimbres	Presentation done - 31 Jan 14
Memorial Resolution	April 2014
Design of the Memorial Area	April 2014
Placement on the National Historic Registry	June 2014

LOCATION SITE AND ITS BENEFITS

The Quincie Douglas Neighborhood Center

The Buffalo Soldiers memorial will be located at the front area of the Quincie Douglas Neighborhood Center, adjacent to the Quincie Douglas Library. This neighborhood is one of the oldest historically black neighborhoods in Tucson (South Park).



Quincie Douglas

Quincie Bell (Sims) Douglas was born in Chikasha, Oklahomea, Indian Territory, on January 12, 1905. She was the third of nine children born to Bessie and William Sims. She was of African-Seminole descent. Because of her cultural background, she understood words from dialects of both ancestral backgrounds, but she was most effective in her own vocal specialty: "Straight Talk!"

Ms. Douglas moved to Tucson in 1933 with a family from Oklahoma while working as a



maid. In March 1934, she met and married Angelo Douglas. She worked as a domestic until 1964, when she was forced to retire after suffering a stroke. Because she did not drive, she had to rely on others to take her places; this limitation did not sit well with her independent nature and was a catalyst for her campaign to help other homebound individuals.

While she was active in the Model Cities in 1970, she spearheaded a move to provide free transportation for low-income, ill, elderly and job-seeking younger people. The result was a \$30,000 "seed money" grant from the Tucson Committee for Economic Opportunity to launch the LIFTS (Low-Income Free Transportation Service) program. In subsequent years, the committee provided \$40,000 annual

support for the program, and LIFTS evolved into today's VanTran program. Mrs. Douglas died August 14, 1986.

Just as Ms. Quincie Douglas made great contributions to the city of Tucson, Colonel Charles Young and Buffalo Soldiers made important contributions in settling Southern Arizona and the Western United States. The Quincie Douglas Neighborhood Center would be a very fitting site for this project.

Source: Most of the information used in Ms. Douglas' bio is from a Nov 19, 2005 Tucson Citizen article by Paul Allen.

Location Benefits

- South Park is one of Tucson's five historic Black neighbors
- Available unused space
- Close proximately to the Quincie Douglas Library. In addition to the memorial, there
 is a possibility of developing a historical area in the Quincie Douglas Library
 featuring the Buffalo Soldiers.
- Easily accessible to 100% of our target audience
- Memorial will across the street from the U of A Bio Park

AUDIENCE

Memorial Awareness Trend

It has been the goal of the Buffalo Soldier – GSAAC, the Ninth Cavalry and other local organizations to progressively expand awareness of the Buffalo Soldier story and their involvement in settling the Southwest and Western United States. We do this through our Scholarship Program, presentations to local schools and organizations, partnering with like historical organizations like the Presidio San Agustin del Tucson.

Audience

Primary School Trips - Seeking education: Ages 10 – 15, Second School and College students seeking additional information for essays and reports.	60%
Cub & Boy Scouts, Church Youth Groups	15%
Families, History Buffs, Tourists seeking educational outings and events. Veterans visiting for tradition or event age 70 +	15%
Military Veterans	5%
Other	5%

APPENDIX A

PROCLAMATION

City of Tucson - Office of the Mayor

WHEREAS, on July 28, 1866, Congress established six all-black regiments, later consolidated to four, to help rebuild the country after the Civil War and to patrol the remote western frontier during the Indian wars; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Soldiers received their name because of the buffalo's fierce bravery and fighting spirit; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Soldiers fought alongside white regiments in many conflicts and were instrumental in the exploration and settlement of western lands; and

WHEREAS, more than 200,000 African-Americans served in World War I and more than one million served in World War II; and

WHEREAS, over the 82 years of the Buffalo Soldiers' existence, 23 received the Congressional Medal of Honor, as well as Medal of Honor, the highest recognition awarded by the United States Government for military service; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Soldiers single Regimental Units ceased to exist in 1948 when President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981 mandating equal treatment and opportunity for African-American servicemen; and

WHEREAS, Arizona Buffalo Soldiers Lieutenant William McBryar, Sergeant Benjamin Brown and Corporal Isaiah Mayes are among the Buffalo Soldiers' most distinguished heroes, each earning the Congressional Medal of Honor;

NOW, THEREFORE, *I, Jonathan Rothschild, Mayor of the City of Tucson, Arizona, do hereby proclaim July 28, 2014 to be*

Buffalo Soldier Resolution Day

in this community, and encourage all our citizens to support the establishment of a Buffalo Soldier memorial in Tucson.